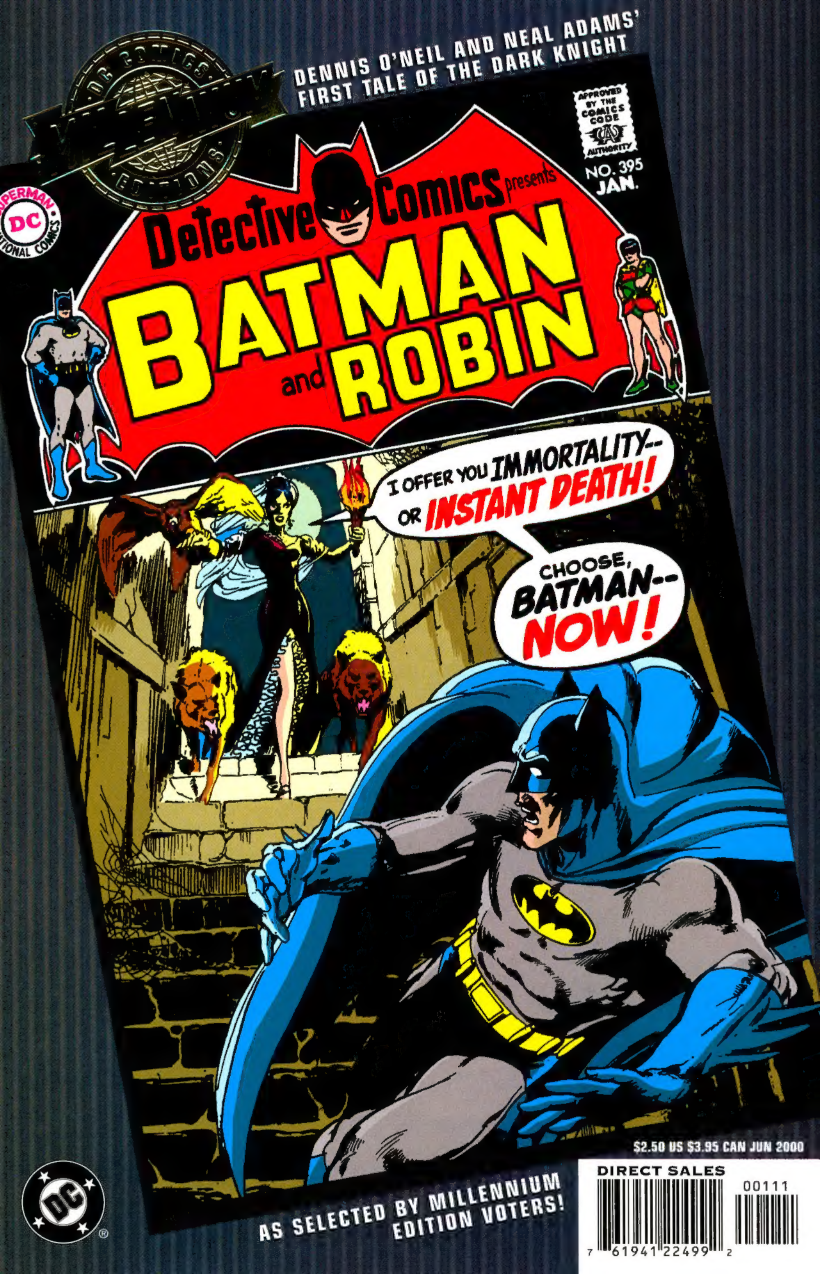

DC COMICS MILLENNIUM EDITIONS
DENNIS O'NEIL AND NEAL ADAMS' FIRST TALE OF THE DARK KNIGHT
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 395
JAN.
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I OFFER YOU IMMORTALITY-- OR INSTANT DEATH!
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Paul Levitz
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER

REMEMBERING THE MILLENNIUM

DETECTIVE COMICS #395
O'Neil and Adams Come to Gotham City

Visitors to DC Comics' web site got to vote for nine of the books in the Millennium Edition series, with this book being the first winner. The reason it handily won over other Silver Age offerings is that it marks the first time writer Denny O'Neil and artist Neal Adams were paired for a Batman story.

By 1969, the campy flavor from the hit TV series had been more or less played out in comics. Editor Julie Schwartz recognized this and, with writers Frank Robbins and Denny O'Neil, moved Batman away from run-ins with familiar costumed villains and toward more atmospheric stories. Artists Carmine Infantino and the Bob Kane Studio stopped providing the art, in favor of Bob Brown, Irv Novick and others.

Schwartz took the dramatic step of updating the entire Batman mythos by letting Dick Grayson grow up beyond the "holy"-isms that made him as much joke as partner. Dick began to attend college, establishing himself as a young adult by living away from Wayne Manor. Bruce Wayne, in turn, closed down the Batcave and abandoned Wayne Manor in favor of a penthouse in Gotham City. A subterranean garage served well as a mini Batcave, giving the Darknight Detective a place to work—and work he did, with new and greater emphasis on Batman as a detective.

This was the setting in 1969 as Schwartz continued to seek a new voice for the character. What he found was an eager cadre of free-lancers who wanted to take things back to the pulp roots of Bob Kane's

continued on inside back cover →

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A BLEAK HILLSIDE IN CENTRAL MEXICO... A PAIR OF OPEN GRAVES ...AND THE SHADOW OF THE DREAD...
BATMAN
DOLORES MUERTO 1843
JUAN MUERTO 1840
...MARK THE BEGINNING OF AN EXCURSION INTO THE EERIE, THE TERRIFYING, THE DEADLY! STAND STILL, AND HEAR THE WIND HOWLING LIKE SOULS IN TORMENT... SEE THE RISE OF AN ASHEN MOON... BREATHE DEEPLY AND SNIFF THE SCENT OF DEATH... AS YOU PREPARE TO LEARN...
"The SECRET of the WAITING GRAVES"
QUITE A BASH THE MUERTOS ARE PITCHING!
THEY CAN WELL AFFORD IT!
SO ORIGINAL...TO HAVE THE PARTY HERE, IN THEIR FAMILY BURIAL GROUND!
WHERE'S THAT HANDSOME BRUCE WAYNE?
SEÑORES AND SEÑORAS ...YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE! THE TIME HAS COME FOR SPORT!
WILL THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE BALLOON RACES PLEASE TAKE THEIR PLACES?
1


MOMENTS LATER, SIX DARING GENTLEMEN RISE INTO THE INKY SKY...
REMEMBER... THE FIRST TO REACH THE CLIFF ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIVER WINS!
HIGHER AND HIGHER THEY RISE! BREEZES SEPARATE THE DANGLING COMPETITORS! ONE, PEDRO VALDES, DRIFTS AWAY, AND...
A SOUND... A SOUND OF WINGS...!
MOTHER OF GOD! TRAINED FALCONS... RIPPING THE BALLOON TO SHREDS!
MORE THAN A HUNDRED FEET TO THE GROUND! I AM LOST!
LIKE A STONE, THE HORRIFIED MEXICAN DROPS... WHEN SUDDENLY, A DARK FIGURE STREAKS FROM THE SHADOWS ...SPEEDS TOWARD THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!...
IF I CAN HIT HIM SOLIDLY... AND FAST...
2


...I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CARRY HIM PAST THE ROCKS...
AND INTO THE RIVER!
THEN, AS THE STUNNED VALDES REACHES THE SAFETY OF THE NEAR BANK...
THE BATMAN...! ALWAYS I HAVE THOUGHT OF YOU AS AN AMERICAN LEGEND! NEVER DID I DREAM THAT YOU WOULD SAVE MY LIFE...
...FOR THAT YOU CERTAINLY DID...
CARAMBA! HE HAS VANISHED! WAS THIS A MAN...OR A WRAITH?!
3


SEÑOR VALDES' QUESTION WOULD BE ANSWERED IF HE COULD SEE HIS SAVIOR ASSUMING ANOTHER IDENTITY, THAT OF BRUCE WAYNE, THE GOTHAM CITY SOCIALITE AND PHILANTHROPIST...
SOMETHING ROTTEN GOING ON HERE...
IT'S OUT OF CHARACTER FOR MUERTO... A NOTORIOUS RECLUSE... TO GIVE THIS HUGE PUBLIC FIESTA...
...AND INVITE EVERY SOCIAL BUTTERFLY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE!
BATMAN DIDN'T LEARN MUCH ON HIS BRIEF TOUR OF THE ESTATE...
...EXCEPT THAT SOMEONE IS KEEPING FALCONS TRAINED TO KILL!
AH, BRUCE! IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU WITH US AGAIN!
YOU HAVE SOME LOVELY LAND, SEÑOR! AND A LOVELY WIFE!
DID YOU ENJOY YOUR WALK?
ONE DOES NOT EXPECT SUCH A YOUTHFUL AMERICAN TO BE SO WELL-MANNERED!
SHE CAN'T BE ANY OLDER THAN I...YET SHE SPEAKS AS THOUGH I WERE A CHILD!
YOU ALSO DANCE SUPERBLY! WE MUST GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!
SHE'S YOUNG, VERY BEAUTIFUL... BUT THERE'S A STRANGE FEELING OF MUSTINESS ABOUT HER!
I SEE VALDES IS BACK! APPARENTLY HIS DUNKING DIDN'T DO HIM ANY PERMANENT HARM!
WONDER WHY HE WAS SINGLED OUT FOR A MURDER ATTEMPT?
FOR NOW, I'D BETTER CONCENTRATE ON BEING CHARMING!
QUITE AN IDEA YOU AND JUAN HAD...! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A PARTY IN A GRAVEYARD BEFORE!
MOST PEOPLE FEAR DEATH! JUAN AND I CHOOSE TO LAUGH AT IT!
4


THAT BRAZIER SHATTERED...! AND I'M CERTAIN I HEARD A MUFFLED REPORT...
SOMEONE'S UP ON THE HILL... SHOOTING AT VALDES WITH A SILENCED GUN!
EXCUSE ME, SEÑORA MUERTO...
ONCE BEYOND THE GLIMMERING CIRCLE OF FIRELIGHT, BRUCE SPURTS FORWARD WITH INHUMAN SPEED, SHEDDING HIS FINERY AS HE GOES...
THEY'RE ABOUT A HUNDRED YARDS FARTHER... BEHIND THOSE BOULDERS...
NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT VALDES... EXCEPT PRAY HE STAYS OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE FOR A FEW MORE SECONDS...
AIEEE..! WHAT MANNER OF MONSTER...?
NEVER HAVE MY EYES SEEN SUCH A TERRIFYING CREATURE!
AS I HOPED... MY STARTLING APPEARANCE IS SPOOKING THEM!
HE IS MORE THAN FLESH CAN FIGHT!
MANUEL... HELP US!
A BULLET WILL STILL THIS BATMAN!
5


GRIMLY, DESPERATELY, THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES... THE MURMUR OF NIGHT BREEZES BROKEN ONLY BY THE PANTING OF THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS AND THE SOFT STACCATO SOUNDS OF COMBAT...
WHUMP
ABRUPTLY, ANOTHER SOUND... THE SHRILL SCREECH OF A HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLE...
SKA
WEEEEEEEEEEEP
FIRST, A PADDING OF PAWS OVER THE SUN-SCORCHED EARTH ... A FETID ODOR! THEN A PAIR OF GIANT WOLVES ANSWERS THE WHISTLED SUMMONS, THEIR EYES GLEAMING WITH KILL-LUST IN THE MOONLIGHT...
6

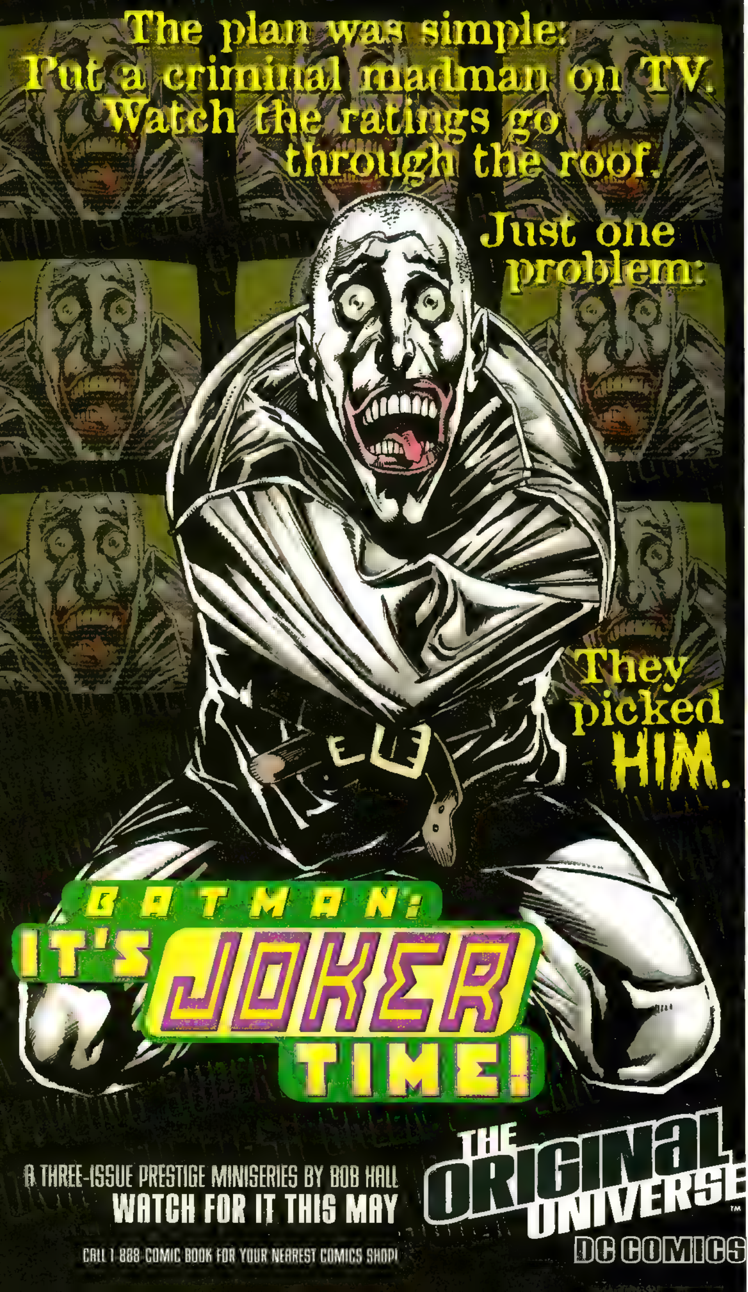


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AS THOUGH SHOT FROM A CANNON, *THE BATMAN* LEAPS UPWARD...
DO NOT AIM TO KILL!
SI! IT IS MUCH BETTER TO MERELY BRING HIM DOWN...
...AND LET THE PETS OF OUR MASTER FINISH THEIR WORK!
BUT BEFORE THE THUGS CAN TRIGGER THEIR RIFLES, *THE BATMAN* ONCE MORE LEAPS...OUT, AWAY FROM THE TREE! FOR A MOMENT, HE SOARS AS GRACEFULLY AS HIS NIGHT-FLYING NAMESAKE...
...THEN PLUNGES OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF AND HURLS TOWARD THE JAGGED STONE FLOOR BELOW!...
7



I HEARD NO SPLASH!
HE DID NOT HIT THE RIVER! HE MUST BE LYING IN THE SHADOWS...
...AND NO MORTAL COULD SURVIVE THAT DROP! HIS FEAR OF THE WOLVES MUST HAVE BEEN GREAT INDEED!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE MUERTOS ARE CONFERRING IN LOW VOICES...
THOSE BUNGLERS AND THEIR GUNS! THEY HAVE FAILED!
THEN, DEAR HUSBAND, WE MUST ATTEND TO VALDES OURSELVES!
SEÑOR VALDES, YOU APPEAR UNHAPPY! WE HAVE A THING TO SHOW YOU THAT WILL GIVE YOU JOY...
COME! IT IS IN THE OLD MONASTERY!
SO IT IS THAT THE TRIO STROLLS TOWARD THE RUIN, ALONG THE CLIFF-EDGE...
THIS THING YOU WISH ME TO SEE...WOULD IT BE A FLOWER, PERHAPS?
THE SEÑOR IS VERY WISE!
IT WILL PLEASE YOU, SEÑOR VALDES... IT MAY EVEN BE WHAT YOU SEEK!
THE MUERTOS AND THEIR PREY... JUST ABOVE ME!
IT'S DOUBLY FORTUNATE I LEFT MY ROPE HANGING AT THIS PARTICULAR SPOT...
I FIGURED I MIGHT NEED IT TO GET ME TO THE CLIFF BOTTOM IN A HURRY ...BUT I DIDN'T FORESEE THAT IT WOULD SAVE MY LIFE...OR PROVIDE A CONVENIENT LISTENING POST!
8



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THEY'RE ENTERING THAT RUINED MONASTERY...
I COULD SHOUT... WARN VALDES... BUT THEN I'D LOSE MY BEST CHANCE AT LEARNING THE MUERTOS' SECRET!
BEHOLD MY TREASURES! LOVELY, ARE THEY NOT?
LOVELY... AND DANGEROUS! ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE SYBIL FLOWERS CONFER IMMORTALITY...
...BUT AT THE COST OF TOTAL, UTTER INSANITY!
DURING YOUR RECENT STAY IN MEXICO CITY, YOU MADE A MISTAKE, MUERTO...
YOU LEFT ONE OF THE BLOSSOMS IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM! PERSONALLY, I DO NOT BELIEVE THE IMMORTALITY NONSENSE... HOWEVER, AS A GOVERNMENT AGENT...
I AM ORDERED TO ARREST YOU BOTH!
MY FRIEND... SURELY YOU WOULD NOT ABUSE OUR HOSPITALITY! I IMPLORE YOU...
GET THAT TORCH AWAY FROM MY EYES...!
UNNGH
K-CHOK!
CALL US MAD, VALDES? YOU DARE INSULT US THUS...?
9



HE'S THE SLYEST, SLIPPERY-EST, SLINKY-EST SUPER-HERO OF THEM ALL!

JACK COLE'S UNFORGETTABLE, SUPER-STRETCHABLE HERO IS BACK!

DON'T MISS HIM IN... PLASTIC MAN ARCHIVES



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COME... COME INTO OUR FIELD OF FLOWERS IF YOU WOULD BE OUR NEMESIS!
FOLLOW US, BATMAN... WE OFFER NO RESISTANCE!
IT MUST BE A TRAP...! YET I SEE NOTHING THEY COULD USE AGAINST ME!
THEN, A CLOYINGLY SWEET SCENT FILLS BATMAN'S NOSTRILS... AND HIS BRAIN IS AFIRE...
REALITY MELTS AROUND HIM! ALL THE WORLD IS A SENSE-SHATTERING NIGHTMARE...
NO...
NO...
NO...
NO!
WHACK
11


THE MIGHTY ONE FELL EASILY TO THE ILLUSION-CREATING POWER OF THE SYBIL FLOWERS, EH, MY SWEET?
IT IS NOT SURPRISING! RECALL HOW THE FLOWERS FIRST AFFECTED US!
THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE FROM THE VINES WE BOUND THEM WITH! THEY ARE TENEMOS VINES...
...THEY RESIST EFFORTS TO PULL THEM LOOSE BY CONTRACTING ALL THE MORE!
SHALL WE UNMASK THE BATMAN?
NO! LET HIM PERISH IN HIS SECRET GUISE! THIS IS FITTING!
AND EVEN MORE FITTING WILL BE THE MANNER OF HIS DEATH ... A DEATH BY BIRDS!
PAINFUL MOMENTS CREEP PAST ON BOOTS OF LEAD... AND BATMAN STRUGGLES TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...
I'M NOT SEEING THOSE ...SHAPES! I MUST CONVINCE MYSELF... IT'S ALL AN HALLUCINATION!
FORCE MYSELF TO... REASON ...TO ESCAPE!
CAN'T BREAK MY BONDS... SO I'LL CUT THEM! GOT TO CONCENTRATE ON UNPINNING VALDES' BADGE...
12


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WHILE OUTSIDE...
OFF WITH YOUR HOOD, PET! GO AND SERVE US!
WITH BEAK AND CLAW... DESTROY OUR ENEMIES!
THE BADGE'S EDGE IS A POOR KNIFE... BUT IT SHOULD SERVE TO SAW THROUGH THESE VINES...
SKRAAAAA
FALCONS?! ARE THEY REAL... OR PART OF THE ILLUSION!?
AAAG!
I CAN FEEL THOSE TALONS THROUGH MY BOOT... THE PAIN IS HELPING ME REGAIN MY MIND!
DID I JUST KICK THAT CREATURE... OR IMAGINE I DID...?
IS THAT ANOTHER CIRCLING FOR THE KILL...? THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING...!
NO MATTER... THE VINE IS CUT THROUGH! ...UNLESS I'M IMAGINING THAT, TOO!
13



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TNANN200


SNARING THAT BIRD... IF A BIRD *IS* THERE... WOULD BE TRICKY EVEN WITH FULL USE OF MY FACILITIES...
CHUNK
GOT TO STOP THINKING ... SIMPLY *ACT!* DRAG VALDES... AND MYSELF... AWAY FROM THIS FIENDISH GARDEN...
FRESH AIR... MY HEAD'S CLEARING! EVERY-THING VALDES SAID ABOUT THOSE PALE, PRETTY FLOWERS IS *TRUE...!*
IF EVER THEY WERE CIRCULATED AMONG THE WORLD'S POPULATION, THERE WOULD BE AN EPIDEMIC OF *MADNESS!*
MUERTO LEFT HIS *TORCH...*
...IT WILL SERVE TO BURN... TO *OBLITERATE...* THE *SYBILS!*
JUAN, MY BELOVED HUSBAND... *LOOK!* OUR FLOWERS... OUR *LIFE...* THE ONLY PATCH OF *SYBILS* LEFT...
...OUR IMMORTALITY BEING BURNED FROM THE SOIL!

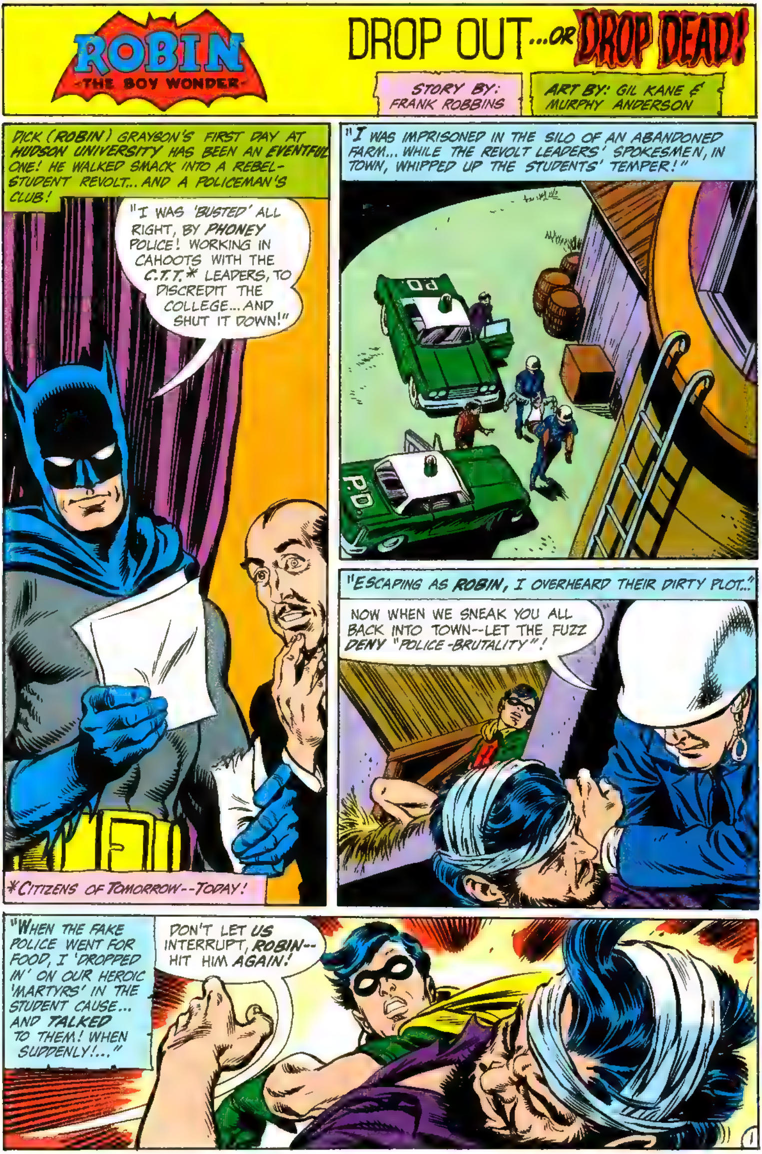

HURRY...WE MUST SAVE THEM...!
NO... STAY, MY DOLORES! REMEMBER... EXTREME EXCITEMENT CANCELS THE EFFECT OF THE FLOWERS' FUMES...
..WOULD YOU BE OLD?
...WOULD YOU LOSE YOUR BEAUTY...? LET THE CHILL OF AGE SEIZE YOUR BONES...?
...YOUR LIMBS STIFFEN...
...THE SKIN OF YOUR FACE CRACK AND CREASE...
...YOUR HEART WITHER... WOULD YOU OPEN THE PORTALS...
..THE P-PORTALS OF...DEATH ITSELF...
15



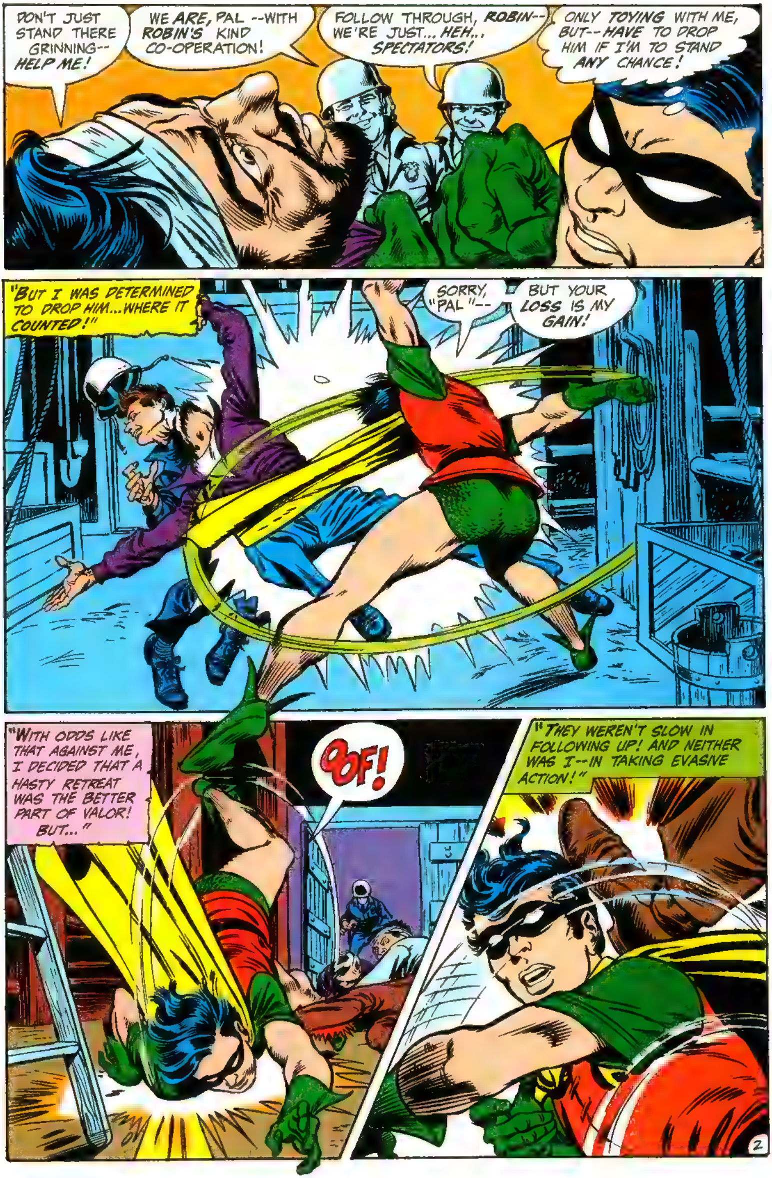
DOLORES
MUERTO
1843 - 1969
JUAN
MUERTO
1840 - 1969
STORY:
DENNY O'NEIL
ART:
NEAL ADAMS
& DICK GIORDANO
EDITING:
JULIE SCHWARTZ
16
The END

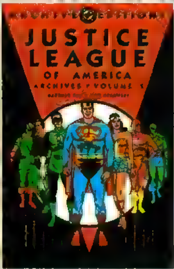


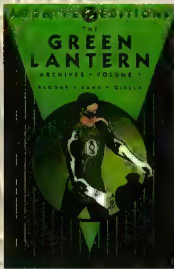
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ROBIN -THE BOY WONDER-
DROP OUT...OR DROP DEAD!
STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS
ART BY: GIL KANE & MURPHY ANDERSON
DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON'S FIRST DAY AT HUDSON UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL ONE! HE WALKED SMACK INTO A REBEL-STUDENT REVOLT...AND A POLICEMAN'S CLUB!
"I WAS 'BUSTED' ALL RIGHT, BY PHONEY POLICE! WORKING IN CAHOOTS WITH THE C.T.T.* LEADERS, TO DISCREDIT THE COLLEGE...AND SHUT IT DOWN!"
*CITIZENS OF TOMORROW--TODAY!
"I WAS IMPRISONED IN THE SILO OF AN ABANDONED FARM... WHILE THE REVOLT LEADERS' SPOKESMEN, IN TOWN, WHIPPED UP THE STUDENTS' TEMPER!"
P.D.
P.D.
"ESCAPING AS ROBIN, I OVERHEARD THEIR DIRTY PLOT..."
NOW WHEN WE SNEAK YOU ALL BACK INTO TOWN--LET THE FUZZ DENY "POLICE-BRUTALITY"!
"WHEN THE FAKE POLICE WENT FOR FOOD, I 'DROPPED IN' ON OUR HEROIC 'MARTYRS' IN THE STUDENT CAUSE... AND TALKED TO THEM! WHEN SUDDENLY!..."
DON'T LET US INTERRUPT, ROBIN--HIT HIM AGAIN!


DON'T JUST STAND THERE GRINNING-- HELP ME!
WE ARE, PAL --WITH ROBIN'S KIND CO-OPERATION!
FOLLOW THROUGH, ROBIN-- WE'RE JUST... HEH... SPECTATORS!
ONLY TOYING WITH ME, BUT--HAVE TO DROP HIM IF I'M TO STAND ANY CHANCE!
"BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO DROP HIM...WHERE IT COUNTED!"
SORRY, "PAL"--
BUT YOUR LOSS IS MY GAIN!
"WITH ODDS LIKE THAT AGAINST ME, I DECIDED THAT A HASTY RETREAT WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR! BUT..."
OOF!
"THEY WEREN'T SLOW IN FOLLOWING UP! AND NEITHER WAS I--IN TAKING EVASIVE ACTION!"
2



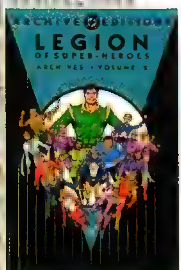




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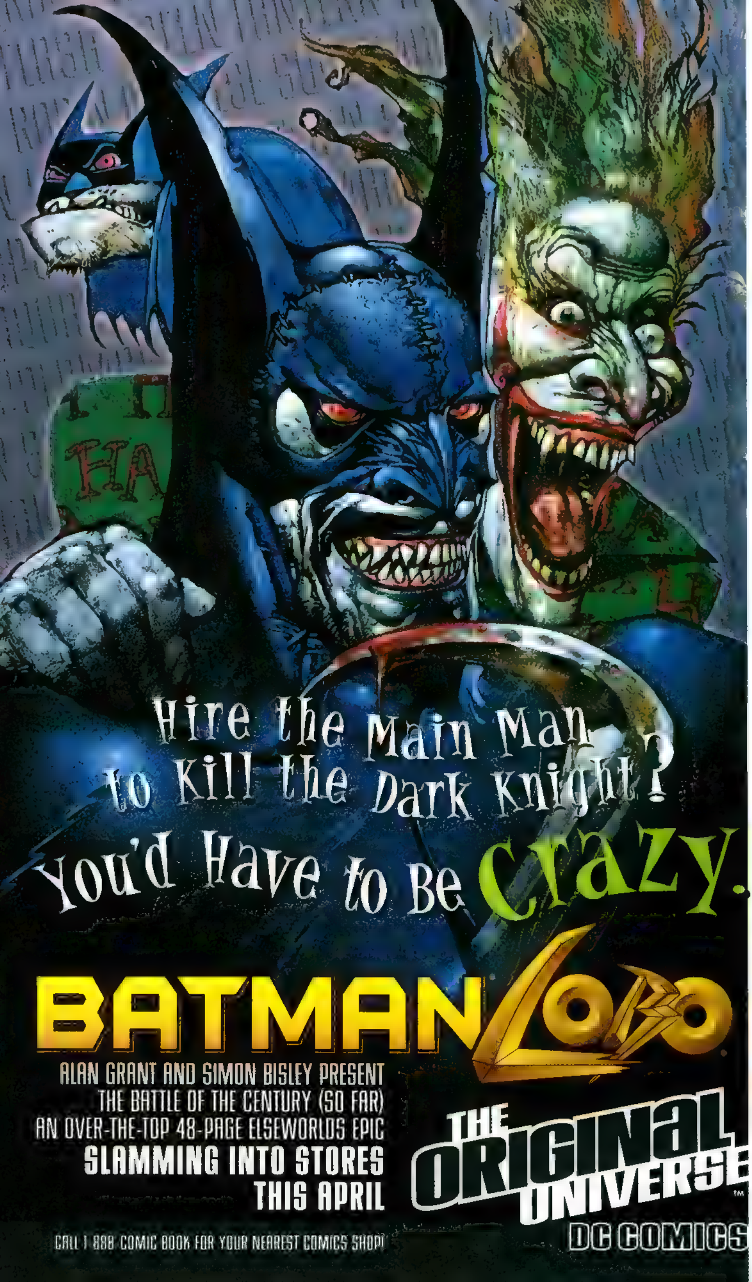
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"IN SECONDS IT WAS LIKE THE OLD DAYS, BRUCE--ONLY NOW I WAS STRICTLY ON MY OWN!"
"NO 'FATHER-FIGURE' TO LEND A HAND, YOU KNOW..."
"BUT THEN IT WAS MY TURN..."
TIM-BER-R-R!
"...AND I WENT DOWN... BUT GOOD!"
3

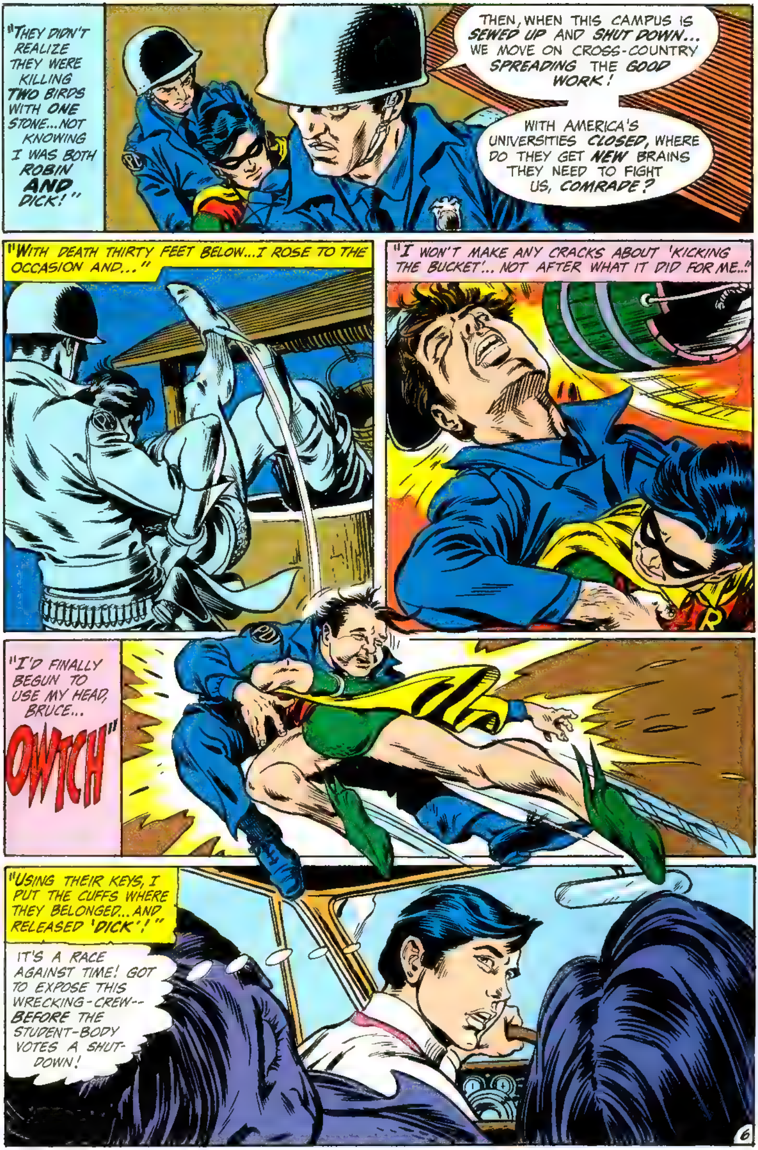

"STILL ROCKY, I WAS GRABBED FROM BEHIND! AS I TRIED TO SHAKE THE FOG FROM MY HEAD..."
DON'T KNOW WHY I'M HELPING YOU, CHORT--AFTER WHAT YOU LET HIM DO TO US!
BECAUSE YOU KNOW WE'RE THE BRAINS BEHIND YOUR "STUDENT REVOLT", JONAH BOY--AND WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST!
WITH HIS HELP--WE'VE NOW GOT A PERFECT "FRAME" AGAINST THE TOWN FUZZ!
IF ANYONE WANTS PROOF OF "POLICE-BRUTALITY"--YOU'VE GOT REAL BRUISES!
DONATED BY--ROBIN!
"AND JUST AS THE FULL IMPORT OF THEIR UGLY SCHEME PENETRATED... SO DID--
POW!"
"I LEARNED LATER, THAT DURING MY SECOND SOJOURN TO ROCK-A-BYE LAND... IN TOWN THINGS WERE HOTTING UP!"
WHY WON'T THE FUZZ SHOW THEIR "VICTIMS"?
ARE THEY AFRAID TO?
ARE WE GOING TO TAKE THIS LYING DOWN?
NO!
ARE WE GOING TO CALL THE VOTE--AND SHUT DOWN HUDSON U?
YES!



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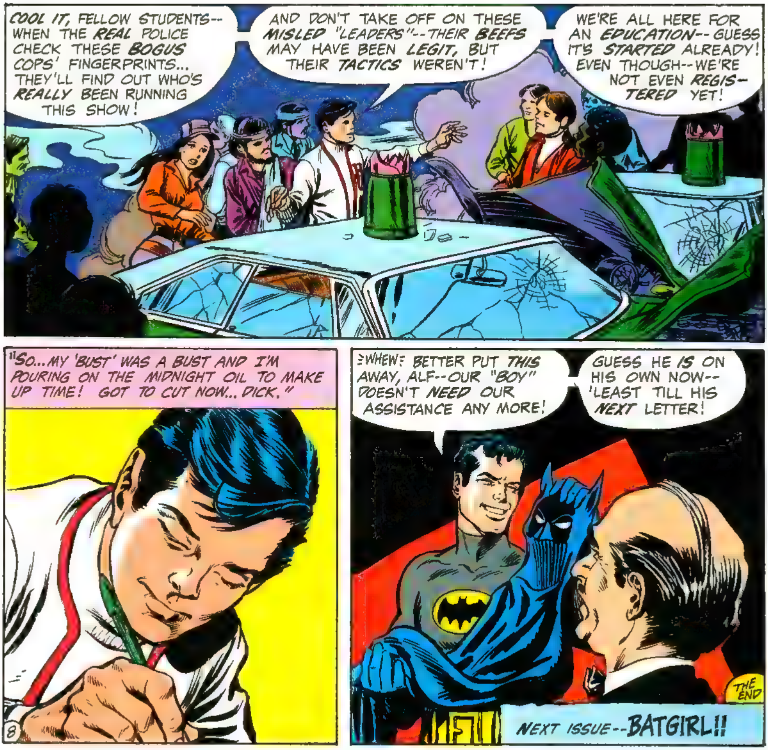


"BUT EVIDENTLY, THERE WAS STILL SOME RESISTANCE..."
IT'S GROOVY, BUT-- I DON'T KNOW, YET--
IF ONLY WE COULD BE SURE...?
THEY'RE TEETERING--TIME TO BRING IN THE CLINCHER!
"AND THEN, THE EXPECTED CALL CAME!"
YO! WE MOVE! SEE YOU SOON, FRAN!
C'MON, C.T.T. "LEADERS"... HAW!
BUT WHAT ABOUT ROBIN? AND THE OTHER KID IN THE SILO? WE WANT NO VIOLENCE!
DON'T FRET YOUR SHAGGY HEAD, JONAH BOY-- OUR WHALES AIN'T GONNA SWALLOW 'EM!
WE'LL JUST HOLD 'EM OVER NIGHT! BY THEN-- WHO'LL BELIEVE THEIR STORY?
"BUT NO SOONER HAD THEIR DUST DIED DOWN..."
STUPID KIDS--THEY NEVER LEARN! THIS GAME--YOU PLAY FOR KEEPS!
SO WE DROP THE CRIME-FIGHTER HERE IN THAT ABANDONED WELL-- LEAVE THE OTHER KID IN THE SILO... TO STARVE!

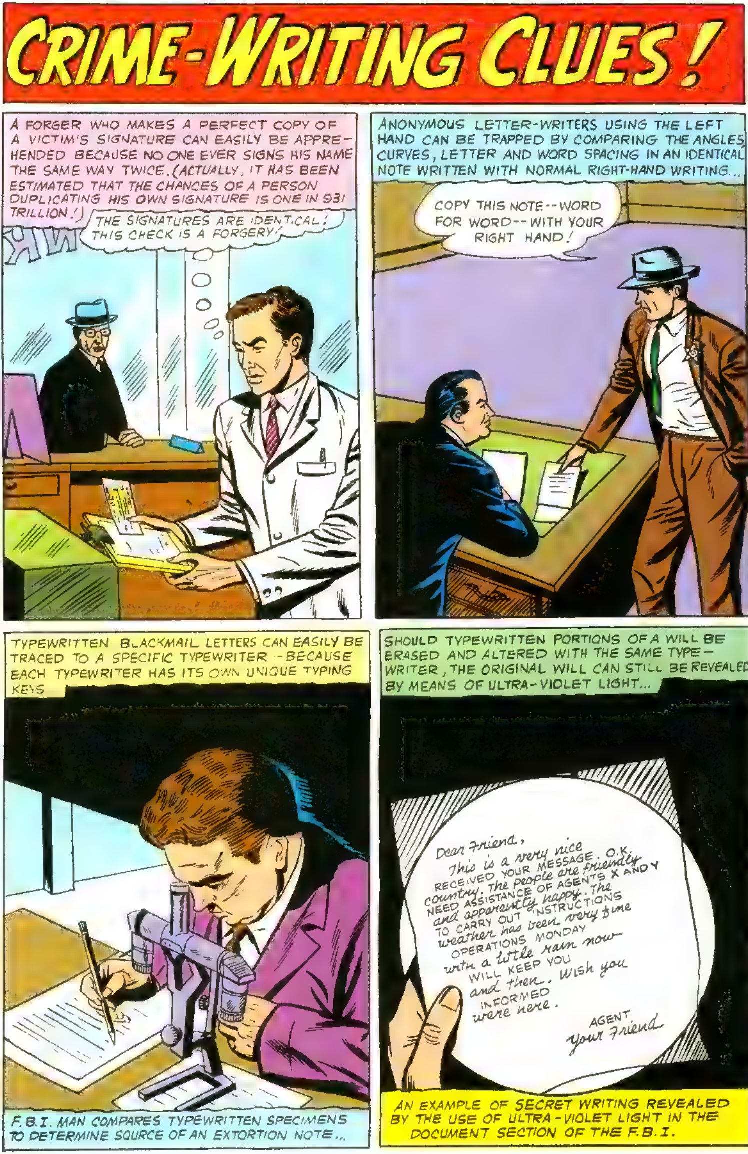

"THEY DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WERE KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE...NOT KNOWING I WAS BOTH ROBIN AND DICK!"
THEN, WHEN THIS CAMPUS IS SEWED UP AND SHUT DOWN... WE MOVE ON CROSS-COUNTRY SPREADING THE GOOD WORK!
WITH AMERICA'S UNIVERSITIES CLOSED, WHERE DO THEY GET NEW BRAINS THEY NEED TO FIGHT US, COMRADE?
"WITH DEATH THIRTY FEET BELOW...I ROSE TO THE OCCASION AND..."
"I WON'T MAKE ANY CRACKS ABOUT 'KICKING THE BUCKET'... NOT AFTER WHAT IT DID FOR ME..."
"I'D FINALLY BEGUN TO USE MY HEAD, BRUCE...
OWTCH"
"USING THEIR KEYS, I PUT THE CUFFS WHERE THEY BELONGED...AND RELEASED 'DICK'!"
IT'S A RACE AGAINST TIME! GOT TO EXPOSE THIS WRECKING-CREW-- BEFORE THE STUDENT-BODY VOTES A SHUT-DOWN!
6



"BUT AS I PUSHED MY LUCK ON NARROW COUNTRY ROADS--IN TOWN...BACK OF THE JAIL-HOUSE..."
THERE THEY ARE! THE FUZZ--SNEAKING IN WITH THEIR LIGHTS OFF!
GA
TRYING TO SMUGGLE OUR BOYS IN--SO WE CAN'T SEE WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO THEM!
OUT--Y' PUNKS! TOO DANGEROUS FOR US TO STICK AROUND!
HEY--DON'T OVERDO THE ACT, CHORT!
SEE! THEY LIED! ALL OF THEM--THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION--THE "LAW"...
TAKE THE VOTE--NOW! STRIKE!
"BUT THE 'MARINES' HAD LANDED...IN THE PROVERBIAL 'NICK'!"
KA-RASH
W-WHAT--WAS THAT?!
"IT HAD BEEN AN 'EYE-BALL TO EYE-BALL' CONFRONTATION...AND HUDSON U WON!"


COOL IT, FELLOW STUDENTS--WHEN THE REAL POLICE CHECK THESE BOGUS COPS' FINGERPRINTS... THEY'LL FIND OUT WHO'S REALLY BEEN RUNNING THIS SHOW!
AND DON'T TAKE OFF ON THESE MISLED "LEADERS"--THEIR BEEFS MAY HAVE BEEN LEGIT, BUT THEIR TACTICS WEREN'T!
WE'RE ALL HERE FOR AN EDUCATION--GUESS IT'S STARTED ALREADY! EVEN THOUGH--WE'RE NOT EVEN REGISTERED YET!
"SO... MY 'BUST' WAS A BUST AND I'M POURING ON THE MIDNIGHT OIL TO MAKE UP TIME! GOT TO CUT NOW... DICK."
8
WHEW! BETTER PUT THIS AWAY, ALF--OUR "BOY" DOESN'T NEED OUR ASSISTANCE ANY MORE!
GUESS HE IS ON HIS OWN NOW--'LEAST TILL HIS NEXT LETTER!
THE END
NEXT ISSUE--BATGIRL!!


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CRIME-WRITING CLUES!
A FORGER WHO MAKES A PERFECT COPY OF A VICTIM'S SIGNATURE CAN EASILY BE APPREHENDED BECAUSE NO ONE EVER SIGNS HIS NAME THE SAME WAY TWICE. (ACTUALLY, IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THE CHANCES OF A PERSON DUPLICATING HIS OWN SIGNATURE IS ONE IN 931 TRILLION!)
THE SIGNATURES ARE IDENTICAL! THIS CHECK IS A FORGERY!
ANONYMOUS LETTER-WRITERS USING THE LEFT HAND CAN BE TRAPPED BY COMPARING THE ANGLES, CURVES, LETTER AND WORD SPACING IN AN IDENTICAL NOTE WRITTEN WITH NORMAL RIGHT-HAND WRITING...
COPY THIS NOTE--WORD FOR WORD--WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND!
TYPEWRITTEN BLACKMAIL LETTERS CAN EASILY BE TRACED TO A SPECIFIC TYPEWRITER --BECAUSE EACH TYPEWRITER HAS ITS OWN UNIQUE TYPING KEYS
F.B.I. MAN COMPARES TYPEWRITTEN SPECIMENS TO DETERMINE SOURCE OF AN EXTORTION NOTE...
SHOULD TYPEWRITTEN PORTIONS OF A WILL BE ERASED AND ALTERED WITH THE SAME TYPEWRITER, THE ORIGINAL WILL CAN STILL BE REVEALED BY MEANS OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT...
Dear Friend,
This is a very nice
RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE. O.K.
country. The people are friendly
NEED ASSISTANCE OF AGENTS X AND Y
and apparently happy. The
TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS
weather has been very fine
OPERATIONS MONDAY
with a little rain now
WILL KEEP YOU
and then. Wish you
INFORMED
were here.
AGENT
Your Friend
AN EXAMPLE OF SECRET WRITING REVEALED BY THE USE OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT IN THE DOCUMENT SECTION OF THE F.B.I.


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→ from inside front cover

original stories.

Artist Neal Adams had been wowing editors since he began working for DC in 1967, turning out a multitude of covers as well as story work in titles such as THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD, the Batman team-up title. Julie Schwartz was one of the editors Adams had been working with, creating covers for BATMAN and DETECTIVE COMICS, so it seemed almost inevitable that Adams would be assigned a Batman story.

"The Secret of the Waiting Graves" turned out to be a memorable story with a tight narrative and atmospheric artwork. It also established O'Neil and Adams as a solid combination; they would go on to produce a spectacular series of stories in BATMAN and DETECTIVE COMICS over the next five years. Their work is among DC's best of that era, both in the Batman titles and in GREEN LANTERN.

The moody, hyperrealistic style employed by Neal Adams helped redefine the tone of the Darknight Detective's adventures in the 1970s. For inspiration, Adams looked to the shadowy atmosphere Bob Kane originally brought to his creation. Adams's influence can be seen time and again—even today—as other artists reinterpret the size and shape of Batman's cape, his ears, and the dark shadows that give the streets of Gotham City their distinctive identity.

The Robin solo story in the same issue is emblematic of the clean storytelling that was a hallmark of Silver Age DC titles, with an unusual pairing of veteran artists Gil Kane and Murphy Anderson. Frank Robbins's story also showed how DC was trying to make Robin over as a worthy crimefighter who could stand on his own two feet.

—Robert Greenberger

DETECTIVE COMICS #395 • JANUARY 1970

"The Secret of the Waiting Graves!"
Story by Denny O'Neil
Art by Neal Adams

"Drop Out...or Drop Dead!"
Story by Frank Robbins
Pencils by Gil Kane
Inks by Murphy Anderson

"Crime-Writing Clues!"
Story and art by unknown

Original cover illustration by Neal Adams
Batman created by Bob Kane

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